

JESUS IS THE TRUTH

JOHN 14.6

For the last two weeks, we looked at the first part of this statement of Jesus in John 14. 6 where He said, "I am the way."

We noted that this is not simply a reference to how to get to heaven, but that Jesus is the only portal into the kingdom of God.

John 10:7 So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture."

Jesus may not be the only way that men can choose, but He is the only way that man can find his way into the presence of the Father.

Certainly the disciples were not concerned about heaven during this conversation – they were concerned about being separated from the Messiah.

Jesus was attempting to console the fears of the disciples when He said to them in verse 1, "Yes, I am going away, but do not let our physical separation cause your heart to break or your minds to wonder. You believe in God whom you cannot see because He is a spirit. In that same manner, believe in me while I am physically absent from you."

He continued to reassure them of His eternal presence in **verses 16-18**.

Here is a thought that I have to admit is not original with me.

We often pick on the disciples because they just never could seem to "get it." When Jesus said that He was going away to a place they could not yet go, they were confused and saddened.

But suppose that was exactly the response Jesus intended to elicit from them? If Peter had understood what was happening with Judas at the same time it was happening, what do you think he might have done? He may have tried to cut Judas' head off as he did with the Temple guard who came to arrest Jesus later.

If the disciples had known what was about to happen later that evening, could it be that they would have banded together with arms to try to prevent it from happening?

But Jesus knew they would deny Him and scatter and thus be no hindrance to the crucifixion and also bring no harm to themselves.

Someone else has said, "*Jesus' words were not intended to produce instant 'relief,' but eternal joy.*" (Bob Deffinbaugh, www.bible.org)

Jesus knew that the disciples loved Him and that they desired never to be separated from Him, but He also knew that their love for Him and their intimacy with Him now was nothing to be compared to what they would experience following the resurrection and their baptism in the Holy Spirit.

This promise Jesus made in **verses 1-4** was not about Jesus having to go away to build mansions before we get to heaven, but that his death and resurrection made a way for us to enter into a right relationship with the Father.

We read about the place that Jesus was preparing for the disciples and ultimately for all believers in...

Eph. 2.19-22

1 Peter 2.4-5, 9-10

Jesus made a way through His death and resurrection for us to become living stones in the kingdom of God. He made a way for us to live with Him forever and a way for Him to dwell in us forever.

Jesus said, "***I am the way*** – the sole way to the Father."

But Jesus also said, "***I am the truth.***"

In other words, not only is He the sole **way** to the Father, He is also the sole **revelation** of the Father.

Matt. 11:27 All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

John 14:6. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father also.

The Apostle John begins his gospel in John 1.1 telling us that Jesus is the Word of God and as the Word of God He is equal with God. Near the end of his last book – the Revelation of Jesus Christ – John repeats again, “Jesus is the word.” (Rev. 19.13) Jesus is the person of God in fleshly form. Then John 17.17 says that we are sanctified by the truth and adds that God’s word is truth.

God’s word is not the way that we find or reach sanctification. The word of God – the Son of God – is the instrument which brings sanctification into existence.

Paul wrote in **1 Cor. 1.2** that we **“are sanctified in Christ Jesus.”** Apart from Him we are nothing and we have nothing that will allow us to come into the presence of God or to be reconciled to God.

John 1.17 The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

John 8.32 You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

In **John 18.37**, Jesus said to Pilate, **“I was born and came into the world to testify to the truth.”** If you remember the story, after Jesus said this, Pilate replied, **“What is truth?”** and then walked out the door before ever giving Jesus a chance to answer and never realizing that he was actually staring truth in the face.

Rom. 15.8 Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God’s truth... (NIV)

Eph. 4.21 The truth is in Jesus (embodied and personified in Him – Amp)

Col. 2:1 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, 2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God’s

mystery, which is Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Jesus is the truth. He is the full revelation of God.

Today’s culture struggles with the definition of truth and has come to the conclusion that the only truth that can be known is the truth that you perceive in your own mind and heart.

There are three basic ways of defining truth.

1. Relativism

- Relativism says that the truth of a statement is determined by the view of the person or culture, not reality.

Believing makes it true.

Well, if it’s true for you...

- Under relativism, one might say, “Jesus is Lord” and at the same time say “Allah is Lord.” Both are equally true because there are people who believe it to be true.
- Such thinking advances the social doctrine of tolerance, but it denies logic.
- If truth is determined by what one believes, then there is no basis for seeking to change one’s mind other than a subjective influence.

“If it feels good, do it” becomes the rule of the day.

If you are filled with personal satisfaction, then follow on.

But if not, then you are entitled to search for truth somewhere else until you are satisfied.

- Such an approach to the physical world or in the world of medicine would be absurd.

Bleeding of the patient

Spontaneous generation

Flat earth

- The concept of relativism actually destroys itself.

If all truth is relative, then the statement “all truth is relative” is only true for those who choose to believe it. Therefore, the concept of tolerance is based on what only some believe is truth but which cannot be forced on others who choose to disbelieve it without violating the very principle of relativity itself.

Then truth is determined by he who is most powerful instead of he who is wisest.

2. Pragmatism

- A belief is true only if it works for a particular person.
- Thus we hear people say, “Whatever works for you...”
- Pragmatism cannot define truth if we can point out a single case where pragmatism proved false.
- In Bosnia, the Christians felt it was pragmatic during WWII to ally themselves with Hitler and to practice genocide to rid themselves of Muslims. In the '90s, the case was reversed when the Muslims became the dominant power and sought to eradicate the Christians.

Genocide may be pragmatic for the one who practices it, but it is certainly not for the victim. And the international community of man has condemned it at every turn.

- Enron felt that it was pragmatic to deceive their investors and the government for the purpose of enriching a few who had inside knowledge, but the country condemned their actions and the leaders of the company are in prison.
- We cannot determine truth by what works – not even with Christianity.
- Just because you have had a personal experience with Christ is no proof that Christ is truth. Muslims and Hindus all have personal experiences with their gods, but that does not make their gods or their doctrines true.

- *“Christianity is not proven true because Christians' lives are changed. The truth of Christianity is rooted in the historical fact that Jesus rose from the dead, which validated all his claims to be the only Savior of the world. This makes it true for all people not just the person whose life is changed by Him.”*

(Gary C. Burger, MDiv, http://www.newmediaministries.org/Morality/WhateverWorks_S.html)

And helps us to understand the scriptures which say that Jesus died for all men, that God so love the world, and that God desires all men to be saved, even when we know that all men will not be saved.

- When someone asks, “How do you know Christianity is true?” the answer is not, “Because Jesus lives in my heart.”

Read the book of Acts. What was the testimony of the Apostles? Was it that Jesus lived in their hearts? Certainly He did. They all experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

But that was not their testimony. The central theme of their message was not Christ living in their hearts but that Jesus was living! He is alive. The resurrection was their theme.

Rom. 10:9 ...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

- For generations men have tried to disprove the resurrection and every time have done just the opposite and have come to the conclusion that there is no event in history with more support for its factual occurrence than the resurrection.

Rom. 1:4 (Jesus) was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead.

1 Cor. 15.1 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in

which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you – unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures... 14 And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.

- Gamaliel was a pragmatic person. He advised the Sanhedrin on how to deal with the disciples. He said, “Just wait and see if their religion works. Then you will know if it is of God or not.”

But Gamaliel missed the point. The disciples were not zealous for Christ because His philosophy worked. In fact, when Jesus was on earth, His philosophy and His doctrine were rejected.

The disciples were zealous for Christ because they had seen him alive.

- The truth of Christ is not founded in man’s experiences, but is rooted in the expression of God’s power in the resurrection of Jesus from the grave.

3. Correspondence view of truth.

- Truth is that which corresponds to (or agrees with) what is factually real.

Example: Jesus is either the Lord of the Universe or He is not.

- The correspondence view of truth says that a factual statement can only be true or false, that a fact cannot be both A and non-A at the same time. It is called the Law of Non-contradiction.

Example: If I say that my wife is here with me at church today and then I turn right around and say that my wife is at our home, one of those statements must be false.

- Islam says that Jesus was not crucified. The Bible says He was.
- Hinduism says that God has many incarnations. The Bible says that Jesus is the only begotten Son and that his name is Immanuel – God with us.
- Buddhism says that we can reach perfect joy when we lose our desires and do what is right.

Christianity says that we will reach perfect joy when our only desire is Jesus and we believe what is right.

- The Mormons say that God was once a man and that men can become gods.

The Bible says...

Numbers 23:19 God is not a man...

Mal. 3:6 For I am the LORD, I change not...

- The Jehovah’s Witnesses say that Jesus is not God – that He was created by God.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Rev. 1:8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

- Truth is defined by reality, not by
 - Personal interpretation
 - Majority vote
 - Cultural fashion
 - Government declaration
- Truth is not determined by understanding or by learning. In fact, truth is never determined but discovered and discerned.

There was a time in history when social, religious, and scientific convention all agreed that the earth was the

center of the universe, but their thinking so and agreeing that it was so did not make it so.

- Truth exists apart from any thought or knowledge or experience of man and is not dependent on or contingent on anything man might do or say.

Truth is that which corresponds or agrees with reality.

John Phillips

Truth is always exclusive, always dogmatic, always intolerant of non-truth. Otherwise it would not be truth, eternal and absolute...Truth is always in some sense narrow. It is error that is broad and accommodating.

Matt. 7:13 ...the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. 14 For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

Many people, even within the church, argue against such a religion that is narrow and intolerant by declaring that it is also restrictive.

But Christianity is anything but restrictive. It is instructive.

Psalm 86:15 But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son..."

2 Cor. 5:19 ... in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

2 Pet. 3:9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

1 Tim. 2:4 who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ

Jesus, 6 who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

None of these verses can be used to defend the doctrine of universalism – that all men will eventually be saved by the God of love.

They speak to the universal truth that God's plan of redemption, created before the foundation of the world, is the only way that men can be reconciled to God and that the death and the resurrection of Christ is the doorway to that reconciliation.

Jesus is the way, and Jesus is the truth.

This is the message and the gospel upon which True Life Church is founded. It is the basis for our calling and for our mission to be ambassadors of Christ to our community and our world.